

May 17, 1965

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE:

I disapprove and veto House Bill 303 for the following reasons:

House Bill 303 is so drawn as to limit its application to Yoakum County. The present minimul local requirement for establishment of a junior college is 4,500 scholastics in counties having an assessed valuation of \$100 million. This bill reduces the minimum to 2,000 scholastics in counties having a minimum assessed valuation of \$60 million and a minimum population of 8,000.

Present criteria adopted by the State Board of Education on October 3, 1964, require that there be an annual average of 300 graduates from the high schools located within the proposed district and that the junior college district have a potential of 500 full time student equivalents enrolled in the college credit program by the end of the fourth year of operation. These criteria were adopted after extensive study by the State Board of Education. If they are to be altered, it appears that such alterations should be developed after thorough study and should apply throughout the State.

According to information secured from the Texas Education Agency, data for Yoakum County is as follows:

a. Scholastics 1964-65	2,245
b. Assessed valuation 1964	60,631,080
c. Population 1960, U. S. Census	8,032
d. High school graduates, Spring 1964	93
e. Enrolled in upper four grades 1963-64	596

Estimate of potential enrollment in the proposed junior college based on high school graduates would be:

First Year:

Freshmen - 50 percent of high school graduates	
of previous year (93)	46
Others estimated	30
Total	76

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Second Year:

Freshmen - 50 percent of high school graduates	50
of previous year (115 juniors less 10%)	
Sophomores - re-entered from previous year (60%)	28
Fifteen percent increase in others	35
Total	113

Third Year:

Fifteen percent increase annually thereafter	130
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<u>Fourth Year:</u>	150
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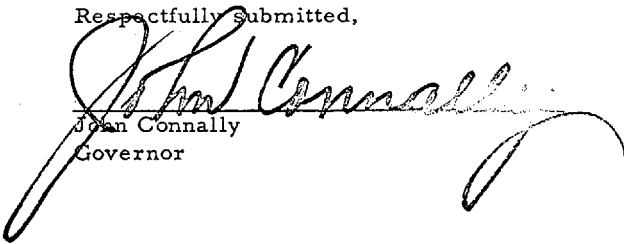
<u>Fifth Year:</u>	183
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The maximum number of students from the county district would likely not exceed 200 full time student equivalents by the fifth year of operating according to this estimate.

Most of Yoakum County is located within 100 to 150 miles of Lubbock, the home of Texas Technological College. It appears that the proposed junior college district would be unable to secure sufficient enrollment to support the breadth of programs which should be maintained for an adequate junior college curriculum. While it is desirable to expand the number of junior colleges in Texas, such expansion should not occur at the expense of quality programs and an adequate number of students to justify the substantial expenditure of funds such quality requires.

Accordingly, I herewith veto and return House Bill 303.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joan Connally  
Governor